

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 08**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-001**  
**DATE: July 22, 1997      TIME: 9:00 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flood - Devils Lake.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: Because of recent rains in the Devils Lake Basin, the lake at Creel Bay had risen to 1,442.85 feet on July 22. Even with the additional rainfall this past weekend, the National Weather Service still expects the lake to crest near or at 1,443 feet.

Recent storm conditions, accompanied by high winds and rains, have caused a disruption of medical services at Spirit Lake Nation. Because of periodic road closures, temporary IHS physicians assigned to Fort Totten are staying at mobile homes or at New Rockford, 40 miles away from Fort Totten. During recent inclement weather, an IHS ambulance on a non-life threatening medical run became stuck in mud on U.S. Highway 281. Two permanent staff members have temporarily relocated their families to New Rockford and Carrington. One staff member's home flooded and the other was concerned about the poor driving conditions of roads.

Although work is progressing satisfactorily on all grade raises in the Devils Lake area, recent inclement weather resulted in delays and damages. Heavy winds on July 2-3 caused considerable damage at the N.D. Highway 57 Fort Totten Bay crossing and at the N.D. Highway 20 Narrows crossing. Other projects suffered lesser amounts of damage. Muddy conditions caused by heavy rains resulted in temporary closures of U.S. Highway 281, north of Minnewaukan. Riprap is being placed on roads to prevent further damage.

Devils Lake area residents have expressed concerns about the extra miles they are forced to travel to work because the crossing of N.D. Highways 20 and 57 has been closed.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: A State Flood Coordination Center meeting was held in Devils Lake, July 10, 1997. Following is a summary of information reported during that meeting.

**N.D. National Guard**

N.D. National Guard crews are applying a "binding agent" to control dust problems on the Woods-Rutten

Road. The binding agent, provided by the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT), helps solidify the dust and should control further deterioration of the roadway. Crews are using a mixture of the binding agent and water on 11 miles of roadway, including three miles in Ramsey County and eight in Benson County.

The National Guard Youth Camp will be held at Camp Gilbert C. Grafton from July 30 to August 2. Approximately 300 children, ages eight to 16, and 100 support staff members are expected to participate. Earlier this summer, National Guard officials had been concerned that flood waters would limit access to the camp, requiring them to hold the event at an alternate location.

The camp's sewage lagoon, which was raised from 1,440 feet to 1,446 feet, appears to be stable. The lagoon is presently 3 1/2 feet above flood waters. Camp officials had been concerned that rising flood waters would require them to switch to Ramsey County Rural Utility System.

### **N.D. Parks and Recreation Department**

A Lakota firm has been awarded a \$2.2 million contract to elevate Grahams Island State Park's access road, from 1,440 feet to 1,450 feet. The park was closed for the summer because flood waters have inundated the road. Part of the road will be rerouted one mile south and then west of the existing road. Construction crews expect to complete the majority of work by November 15. Up to eight inches of gravel and a prime coat will be placed on the road next spring.

### **N.D. Department of Transportation**

Officials for the Devils Lake District Office of the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) reported road construction projects underway range from 18 to 99 percent complete. Updates on projects are as follows:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Completion</u>
N.D. Highway 20/Acorn Ridge area	\$3.2 million	22.6 percent
N.D. Highway 57, by the Casino	\$1.4 million	18 percent
N.D. Highway 57, 2 mi. south of N.D. Hwy. 20	\$1.6 million	45.8 percent
N.D. Highway 57 at Fort Totten Bay	\$2.4 million	31.4 percent
N.D. Highway 20 at the junction of N.D. Hwy. 57	\$1.9 million	22.4 percent
N.D. Highway 20/Mission Bay area	\$1.5 million	73.1 percent
N.D. Highway 20/Black Tiger Bay area	\$1.9 million	23.3 percent
U.S. Highway 281, near junction N.D. Hwy. 19	\$2.5 million	23.4 percent
N.D. Highway 19, near junction U.S. Hwy. 281	\$1.0 million	8.7 percent
U.S. Highway 281, north of Minnewaukan	\$3.6 million	25.6 percent
U.S. Highway 281, south of Minnewaukan	\$1.2 million	42.3 percent
N.D. Highway 19, west of Devils Lake Airport	\$433,014	35.3 percent
N.D. Highway 1 at Stump Lake	\$356,048	98 percent
N.D. Highway 19, Six Mile Bay area	\$2 million	83 percent
N.D. Highway 19, Mauvais Coulee area	\$1.5 million	99 percent

Bridge foundation engineering test work will begin soon for plans to construct a high-level bridge on N.D. Highway 57 at the Narrows. The bridge, if constructed, would be built to 1,460 feet MSL and would span the lake for one mile. The N.D. DOT estimates the cost for this option would be \$13 million. N.D. DOT staff also reviewed plans for a grade raise of the road. The bridge is the preferred option by the N.D. DOT. Bridge design work could be completed by early winter, and bids taken in early 1998. Construction could start next spring and end by fall.

Bids were scheduled to be taken during the July 13-19 week for elevating two low-lying areas, both east and west of Mauvais Coulee, to 1,448.5 feet MSL.

Work is nearing completion on grade raises at N.D. Highway 1 at Stump Lake and at N.D. Highway 200 near Chaseley.

Work started on July 9 on a grade raise on U.S. Highway 2, two miles west of Churchs Ferry, where high water is threatening the integrity of the road.

### **N.D. State Water Commission**

Storage space for Devils Lake water, obtained this year through the Available Storage Acreage Program (ASAP), totals 22,000 acre feet (AF). Storage space was secured on 165 sites, or 13,500 acres in the Devils Lake Basin.

To date, the State Water Commission has issued five orders to private landowners to remove their structural debris from Devils Lake. The State Water Commission continues to work with the Lake Region District Health Office to identify other problem areas.

The State Water Commission continues efforts to identify illegal drains in the eight-county Devils Lake Basin. County water resource board will be notified if illegal drains are identified in their area.

The 1997 Devils Lake Hazard Identification maps are currently being distributed to the public and to users of Devils Lake. The maps identify such hazards as submerged roads, boat ramps, fences, rocks, trees, shrubs and concrete slabs. The State Water Commission obtained assistance in identifying hazards from the N.D. Game and Fish Department, N.D. Parks and Recreation Department and the Lake Region Anglers.

### **N.D. Game and Fish Department**

N.D. Game and Fish Department officials have obtained a signed access easement from a private landowner for a public access boat ramp on the western edge of Six Mile Bay. A contractor will soon be selected for the project. Construction is expected to take one week.

### **Ramsey County Emergency Management**

Ramsey County Rural Utility System plans to shut a lift station, leaving three Eagle Bend Estates homeowners without service. These homeowners have been advised to contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Teleregistration Center for assistance with obtaining housing and alternate sewer service.

Officials for the utility and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are elevating a manhole cover on the north side of Acorn Ridge, east of N.D. Highway 20. The manhole cover protects a lift station that provides service to 42 customers.

The bike path along Ramsey County Highway #1 is in danger of becoming inundated by flood waters.

The Lake Region District Health Unit is investigating the possibility of using a barge to remove debris from Devils Lake.

### **Northern Plains Electric Cooperative**

High Devils Lake waters continue to force Northern Plains Electric Cooperative to discontinue use, replace or repair electrical lines on an as-needed basis. In order to stay ahead of the rising lake waters, the cooperative has installed a tie line to serve the Grahams Island area.

The cooperative is developing plans to protect electrical service in the Minnewaukan and Churchs Ferry areas. If the lake reaches 1,444 feet MSL next year, some projects will have to be abandoned or redesigned at a much higher cost.

Although Grahams Island is isolated by flood waters, power line workers for the cooperative have received assistance from the State Parks and Recreation Department in traveling to the area for routine maintenance work.

### **Indian Health Service**

Installation of riprap will begin soon at St. Michael's sewage lagoon. The lagoon will be protected to 1,450 feet as part of the \$225,000 construction project.

Indian Health Service (IHS) and Spirit Lake Nation officials have determined that as many as eight of 12 drain fields have been damaged by flood waters. The IHS will provide assistance to replace the drain fields.

### **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

The USACE provided the following update on projects underway in the Devils Lake Basin:

1. Stage One, City of Devils Lake Levee Raise: Stage One efforts to elevate the lake level protection system for the city of Devils Lake are 85 percent complete. Representatives of the USACE and the contractor are working on design changes to raise the levee's top elevation from 1,450 feet to 1,457 feet. The disaster supplemental bill recently passed by the U.S. Congress allows for the levee to be constructed to 1,450 feet with up to seven feet of freeboard. As much of the levee system as possible will be raised to 1,457 feet by the end of the 1997 construction season. However, some components, such as elevating pumping stations, will not be completed until the summer of 1998.
2. Stage Two, City of Devils Lake Levee Raise: Changes to plans for Stage Two should be completed by early August. Two pump stations will be added as a result of new plans calling for a top elevation of 1,457 feet. New plans also call for widening the banks to accommodate the higher elevation
3. Ramsey County Rural Utility System: The USACE and utility officials are working to elevate the manhole and the area around the manhole on the north side of Acorn Ridge from 1,442.4 feet to 1,447.5 feet. The manhole protects a lift station that provides service to 42 customers.
7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The next State Flood Coordination Center meeting will be held July 24, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room. Thereafter the group plans to meet on a monthly basis. The upcoming meeting schedule is as follows: August 21, September 25 and October 23. The meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Courthouse.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

---

Douglas C. Friez, State Director